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AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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Ending the Ban:
The military's top
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eo

EYE OPENERS

Pa. Co-Opts Zero-Tolerance Snowball Policy From D.C.

A Pennsylvania woman faces a hearing on charges that she hit a transit bus driver in the head with a snowball because he wouldn't let her board with an expired bus pass. Lateia Jefferson is accused of cursing at the Cambria County Transit Authority driver and hitting him with the snowball on Jan. 20. Her hearing is set for March 4. The driver wasn't injured. (AP)

"We ask that your child imitate a crazed masochist for the length of the field trip."

— **RON STERR**, PRINCIPAL OF AN ARIZONA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, IN A JOKE LETTER TO TEACHERS ACCIDENTALLY SENT TO PARENTS. HE CALLED EACH PARENT TO APOLOGIZE.

Hot Topic Mulls Vast Untapped Kitten Market

A Wilkes-Barre, Pa., woman is heading to trial on animal cruelty charges for marketing "gothic kittens" with ear and neck piercings. Prosecutors say Holly Crawford inflicted pain on the cats to make money. Attorneys for Crawford say she didn't act maliciously. Crawford said she used sterilized needles and made sure the kittens were healing properly. She said she wasn't trying to hurt them. (AP)



The Big Picture



NEW ORLEANS SAINTS player Na'Shan Goddard bench-presses a reporter during media day for Super Bowl XLIV on Tuesday in Miami. (AP)

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In Brief

LOS ANGELES

Source: Prosecutors Will Charge Jackson's Doctor



Murray

A law enforcement official says prosecutors plan to charge Michael Jackson's doctor with manslaughter. The official said prosecutors will file a criminal complaint against Dr.

Conrad Murray in court rather than go through a secret grand jury. Jackson died June 25 from an anesthetic overdose. Murray maintains nothing he gave Jackson should have killed him. (AP)

WASHINGTON

Murtha in Intensive Care

Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa., is being treated in a Virginia hospital's intensive care unit after complications from gallbladder surgery, his spokesman confirmed Tuesday. Murtha, 77, had been suffering from gallbladder pain and arranged to have the organ removed last week. (AP)

NEW YORK

Man Charged in Fatal Fire

A drunken man set fire to his apartment by tossing a lighted toilet paper roll soaked in paint thinner into a baby carriage, touching off a blaze that killed five people, police said. Daniel Ignacio, 27, was arrested Tuesday on charges of second-degree murder and arson. (AP)

Obama Adopts Combative Tone

President steps up attacks on the GOP at town hall in N.H.

Nashua, N.H.

President Obama unleashed bare-knuckled criticism against opposition Republicans on Tuesday, using some of his toughest language yet to paint them as electoral opportunists willing to switch positions at will to score points with voters.

The president's fellow Democrats have been pleading with him, as de facto leader of his party, to get tougher on Republicans leading into this fall's midterm elections.

Obama answered those calls at a town hall meeting in New Hampshire, where two House seats and a Senate seat are in play in November.

The president made a play for bipartisanship, urging Congress' minority Republicans to cooperate with him and Democratic leadership on overhauling the nation's education, energy and health care policies, and on tackling record and



President Obama listens to a question at a town hall meeting on Tuesday in Nashua, N.H., a critical election battleground.

crippling federal budget deficits. "Democrats can't do this alone nor should we," Obama said.

Yet as the president reached out with one hand, he slapped with the other. Obama took Republicans to task for what he said are two instances of switching positions.

He said that those who opposed last year's massive stimulus package, and have argued since that

it isn't helping to save or create jobs, have also claimed credit in their districts for projects that were funded by the bill. "They've found a way to have their cake and vote against it, too," Obama said, without naming any lawmakers specifically.

Obama also criticized Republicans for opposing a bill to create a bipartisan commission on reducing

the deficit, saying that seven GOP senators who once co-sponsored the bill then voted against it.

"It's one thing to have an honest difference of opinion on something," Obama said. "It's another to walk away from your responsibilities to confront the challenges facing this country because you think it's good short-term politics."

DARLENE SUPERVILLE (AP)



BELLWETHERS

America's most famous groundhog has spoken. And it's bad news for anyone who's sick and tired of winter. Punxsutawney Phil emerged to see his shadow before chilly revelers in Pennsylvania on Tuesday. German tradition holds that if a hibernating animal sees its shadow on Feb. 2 — the traditional Christian holiday of Candlemas — winter will last another six weeks. If no shadow is seen, legend says, spring will come early. (AP)

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Nation

CIA Chief Sounds Alarm

Panetta: Al-Qaeda will try to strike U.S. in the months ahead

Washington

Al-Qaeda can be expected to attempt an attack on the United States in the next three to six months, senior U.S. intelligence officials told Congress on Tuesday.

The terrorist organization is deploying operatives to the United States to carry out new attacks from inside the country, including "clean" recruits with a negligible trail of terrorist contacts, CIA Director Leon Panetta said.

The annual assessment of the nation's terror threats provided no startling new terror trends but amplified growing concerns since the attempted Christmas Day air-



KEVORK DJANSEZIAN/GETTY IMAGES

CIA Director Leon Panetta provided an intelligence assessment on Tuesday.

line attack in Detroit that militants are growing harder to detect.

"The biggest threat is not so much that we face an attack like 9/11. It is that al-Qaeda is adapting its methods in ways that oftentimes make it difficult to detect,"

"It is the lone-wolf [terrorism] strategy that I think we have to pay attention to."

—LEON PANETTA, CIA DIRECTOR, DELIVERING AN ANNUAL INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT TO CONGRESS TUESDAY.

Panetta told the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Panetta also warned of the danger of extremists acting alone: "It's the lone-wolf strategy that I think we have to pay attention to as the main threat to this country."

Director of National Intelligence Dennis Blair said that al-Qaeda can be expected to continue to try to attack the United States until Osama bin Laden and his No. 2, Ayman al-Zawahiri, are dead.

PAMELA HESS (AP)



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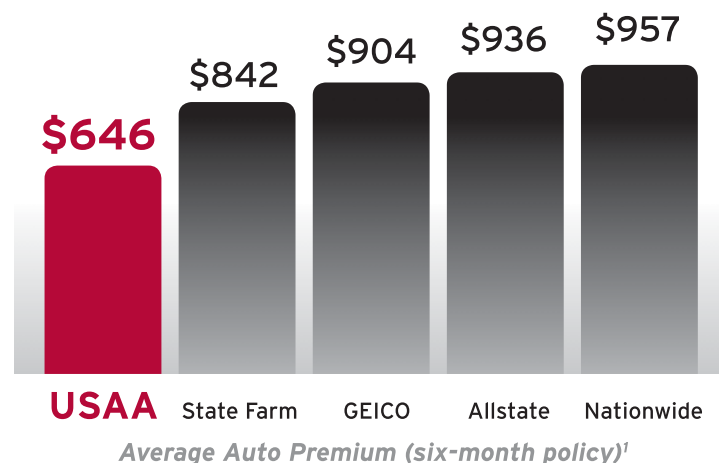
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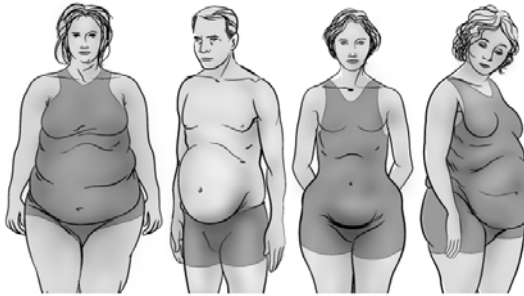
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Nation

At NASA, Destination Unknown

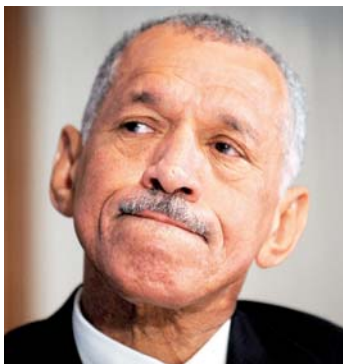
Agency's new plan for exploration lacks a specific flight goal

Washington

NASA has a brand-new strategy for human space flight. But now it needs to decide where to go.

The Obama administration's dramatic decision to kill NASA's Constellation program, and with it the plan to send astronauts back to the moon to create a lunar base, has incited controversy across the space industry. It has also created a swarm of uncertainties.

The old NASA strategy set a destination first and then developed



NASA's administrator, Charles Bolden, wants a debate about space priorities.

technology to get there. The new strategy calls for pouring billions into space technologies without defining the destination.

The idea is to create techno-

logical flexibility so that astronauts could potentially visit a variety of locations in the inner solar system, including the moon, near-Earth asteroids and possibly Mars.

NASA's administrator, Charles Bolden, a former astronaut President Obama appointed to run the agency, on Tuesday denied that NASA's future has become nebulous.

"We are now going to have the national debate about where we should be going in space exploration," Bolden said. "For any of you who think we are abandoning human space flight, I just respectfully disagree." **JOEL ACHENBACH (THE WASHINGTON POST)**

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TED S. WARREN/AP

An employee of a liquor and wine distributor adjusts bottles at a store in Seattle.

Slump Puts a Lid On Pricey Liquors

Report: Americans drank more in 2009 but stayed on budget

New York

Americans' love affair with top-shelf booze cooled last year as the recession took a toll on high-priced tipples.

A new report by an industry group shows people drank more but also turned to cheaper brands. They also chose to imbibe more at home and less in pricier bars and restaurants.

Industry growth slowed in 2009, with the amount of liquor sold by suppliers rising a meager 1.4 percent. That's the smallest increase since 2001 and below the 10-year average of 2.6 percent.

Last year, the lowest-priced segment, with brands such as Popov vodka that can go for less than \$10 for a fifth, grew the fastest, with volume rising 5.5 percent,

\$4.56B

The total sales of vodka in the United States last year, the most of any liquor. Vodka sales accounted for almost a third of all spirits sold.

after edging up 0.6 percent in 2008. Meanwhile, the most expensive price range, roughly \$30 or more for a bottle, fell the most, tumbling 5.1 percent.

Kenneth Jolly of Milwaukee has been swapping his favorite, pricier liquors, such as Patron tequila, for cheaper brands to stay on top of his budget. For him, it's simple math.

"If you consume a lot on a regular basis and you have people come to your house, you have to adjust," said Jolly, a 27-year-old network technician in Milwaukee who buys liquor every other week. "If your body can take it, you might as well buy the cheaper liquor."

EMILY FREDRIX (AP)

BIRTHDAYS

America's last surviving

World War I veteran marked his birthday in West Virginia Monday with family and friends, noting that he has much to be thankful for as he blew out 109 candles. Frank Woodruff Buckles said his birthday wish was in the hands of Congress; he wants to live to see the dedication of a World War I memorial in Washington, D.C. (AP)



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Aid Slow to Reach Many in Haiti

Thousands still lack food and shelter as relief efforts expand

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Three weeks after a powerful earthquake destroyed Haiti's capital, hundreds of thousands of desperate people still have not received food and shelter from an expanding international aid operation, U.S. officials said Tuesday.

Rajiv Shah, the administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, said the relief effort has escalated in recent days and will continue to do so. Emergency food aid has been provided to more than a million people in and around Port-au-Prince, but about 2 million people need such assistance, he said.

About 70,000 out of an estimated 240,000 to 300,000 families who lost their homes have received plastic sheeting or tents, he said.

"We are in an emergency relief situation, and we will continue to be in an emergency relief situation for many weeks to come," Shah said at a news conference at the State Department.

Shah said that water distribution represents "a success story," with no reported shortages. But



Haitians wait in line to receive water in Port-au-Prince on Tuesday. No water shortages have been reported during relief efforts.

Meanwhile ...

The 10 Americans who tried to take 33 Haitian children out of the country were questioned by a judge for several hours on Tuesday, said Communications Minister Marie-Laurence Jocelyn Lassegue. No lawyers were present, and the Americans have yet to be charged. Authorities said they have not yet verified that any of the children found with the Americans were actually orphans. (AP)

sanitation is still a challenge, he said, as is the process of clearing mounds of rubble from Port-au-Prince and other affected areas.

Shah said that enough plastic sheeting, tents and other materials have arrived in the country to provide shelter for 260,000 households and that relief workers are trying to get them to families living outdoors. One complication, he said, is "finding sites that are appropriate for families to build those shelters," given the huge amount of debris

and concrete covering land in the densely populated capital.

Thousands of Haitians are being put to work clearing rubble under temporary work programs, he said.

Shah said the pace of food delivery has picked up since aid workers established a system in which Haitian women are given coupons to pick up rice and other goods for their families at 16 distribution sites in Port-au-Prince. **MARY BETH SHERIDAN** (THE WASHINGTON POST)

Iran: Ready To Ship Out Uranium

Tehran, Iran

Iran said on Tuesday it was ready to send its uranium abroad for further enrichment as requested by the U.N.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad announced the decision in an interview with state Iranian television.

He said Iran will have "no problem" giving the West its low-enriched uranium and taking it back several months later when it is enriched by 20 percent.

The decision could signal a major shift in the Iranian position on the issue. For months, Iranian officials used the media to criticize the plan and offer alternatives.

Still, it was unclear how much of a concession Ahmadinejad's comments represented, even though he appeared to be saying for the first time that Iran was willing to ship out its enriched uranium and wait for it to be returned in the form of fuel for its Tehran research reactor.

His time frame of four or five months appeared to fall short of the year that Western officials say it would take for Iran's enriched fuel to be turned into fuel rods for the reactor. **NASSER KARIMI** (AP)

Pope Deepens Rift With Secularists Over Equality Acts in U.K.

London

Pope Benedict XVI's condemnation of British equality legislation designed to protect gays and women in the workplace has deepened the rift between the Vatican and secularists, who demand that taxpayers not foot the bill for his newly

announced September visit.

The Roman Catholic Church's opposition to allowing gays to become priests or having rights such as adoption puts it at odds with changing attitudes in Britain, where acceptance of homosexuality has increased in recent decades.

It's not the only conflict between

Britons and the pontiff. Benedict recently surprised the Church of England by inviting Anglicans who oppose women priests and bishops into the Roman Catholic fold.

In an address to English bishops Monday, Benedict said some British legislation had imposed "unjust limitations on the freedom of religious

communities to act in accordance with their beliefs." He complained that the law had in some cases violated "the natural law upon which the equality of all human beings is grounded."

Many critics in Britain saw the pope's comments as a criticism of labor legislation. (AP)

Hearsay

"We don't feel any need presently to release a video, but whenever we feel a need, we will do so."

— **AZAM TARIQ**, PAKISTANI TALIBAN SPOKESMAN, ON WHY THE MILITANTS REFUSED TO DISPROVE REPORTS THAT THEIR LEADER WAS DEAD, ON TUESDAY. HE SAID APPEARING BEFORE THE MEDIA COULD ENDANGER HAKIMULLAH MEHSUD.

HONORS

The Internet was among the nominees for this year's Nobel Peace Prize, according to some of the people who made the nominations. The inanimate object was nominated by the Italian version of **Wired** magazine, which cited the Internet's use as a tool to promote democracy. Other candidates for the esteemed prize include Russian human rights activist Svetlana Gannushkina and her group Memorial, and Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo. (EXPRESS)



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The Blue Line between Pentagon and Foggy Bottom stations and the Orange Line between Court House and Foggy Bottom stations will be closed over Presidents' Day Weekend. Rosslyn and Arlington Cemetery stations will also be closed.

Major track work this Presidents' Day weekend (February 12-15) will result in delays on Metrorail.

From 10 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 12 until 5 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 16, there will be no Blue Line service between Pentagon and Foggy Bottom-GWU stations and no Orange Line service between Courthouse and Foggy Bottom-GWU stations.

Free shuttle bus service will be available between:

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World

Israel Secures Beaches

Palestinian militants claim responsibility for floating bombs

Jerusalem

Palestinian militants said Tuesday they had launched a large number of floating explosives into the Mediterranean Sea to avenge the death of a top Hamas commander, a day after two bomb-laden barrels washed up on Israel's coastline.

Israeli authorities launched an intensive search for new bombs, closing miles of beaches and deploying robotic bomb squads.

Abu Saed, a spokesman for the Popular Resistance Committees, a Gaza faction with close ties to Hamas, said the attack was meant to avenge the killing last month of Mahmoud al-Mabhouh, a veteran Hamas operative who Israeli defense officials say was involved in smuggling rockets into Gaza.



Police on horseback patrol a beach in Ashkelon, Israel, after explosives washed up.

Hamas says Israeli Mossad agents ambushed al-Mabhouh in his Dubai hotel room, immobilized him with an electrical shock and strangled him to death.

Israel has refused to comment on the allegations.

"We confirm that there are still many of these charges in the ocean, and they haven't exploded

yet," Abu Saed said.

In Jerusalem, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused Hamas of being behind the weapons, with support from Iran and Syria.

"We view with great severity the Hamas operation near the Gaza beach, and we will respond accordingly," he said, without elaborating. MARK LAVIE (AP)

Ahmadinejad Proposes Prisoner Swap With U.S.

Tehran

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Tuesday proposed a prisoner swap of Iranians in U.S. prisons for three American hikers being held in Tehran.

Ahmadinejad said in an interview with state TV that there were negotiations about possibly exchanging the hikers for several Iranians jailed for years in the U.S. — including a nuclear scientist who disappeared in Saudi Arabia.

Ahmadinejad did not mention any specifics, but in December Iran released a list of 11 Iranians it says are being held in the U.S.

The Americans held in Iran accidentally crossed the border in July, their families have said. (AP)

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France Probes Concorde Crash

Court to investigate whether airline is at fault in 2000 accident

Pontoise, France

A long-awaited trial in the fiery crash of an Air France supersonic Concorde opened Tuesday, but lawyers for Continental Airlines — accused of responsibility in the accident that killed 113 people — urged the court to drop the proceedings.

Houston-headquartered Continental Airlines Inc. two of its employees and three French aviation officials are accused of man-



Air France Concorde flight 4590 takes off shortly before its crash on July 25, 2000.

slaughter in the case.

The court in Pontoise, north of Paris, must weigh who is respon-

sible for the July 25, 2000, crash.

The Concorde plunged into a hotel minutes after takeoff from Paris'

"I am here to remind people that this is not the trial of an empty plane."

— **STEPHANE GICQUEL**, LEADER OF FENVAC, A NATIONAL FEDERATION OF COLLECTIVE ACCIDENT VICTIMS, TUESDAY. THE FAMILIES OF THE 100 MAINLY GERMAN PASSENGERS WERE NOT IN COURT.

Charles de Gaulle airport, trailing flames and foreshadowing the end of the aircraft that embodied trans-Atlantic elegance.

Investigators say the crash was triggered by a metal strip on the

runway that had fallen from a Continental DC-10 minutes beforehand, a claim the U.S. carrier rejects, saying investigators had failed to probe another lead.

Presiding judge Dominique Andreassier opened proceedings by reading out the victims' names — 109 on the plane and four on the ground. She described the investigation as "difficult and technical," defending the lengthy probe that has produced 80,000 pages worth of information for the court. Cases of this complexity often take years to come to trial in France.

Continental lawyer Olivier Metzner and attorneys for several other defendants urged the court to call off the proceedings, expected to last four months. It would be unusual for the court to grant their request. **ANGELA DOLAND (AP)**

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In Brief



Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley delivers his State of the State address Tuesday.

ANNAPOLIS, MD.
O'Malley Pushes Md. Jobs In State of State Speech

Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley on Tuesday urged the General Assembly to focus on job creation during its 90-day session, calling on lawmakers to pass a new tax credit for hiring unemployed people, expand a loan program for small businesses and invest in new schools. O'Malley also called on lawmakers to stand up to "the home-destroying machinery of national mortgage companies" by passing legislation requiring mediation before many home foreclosures. (AP)

WASHINGTON
36 Arrested in Va., D.C., Immigration Sweep

Immigration officials say 36 people who were illegally in the United States have been arrested in a four-day operation across Virginia and the District of Columbia. The arrests were announced Monday. Officials say 32 of the people arrested had been convicted of crimes including robbery and drug dealing. At least three were members of gangs. (AP)

BLACKSBURG, VA.
Va. Tech Tells Parents of Drug, Alcohol Violations

Virginia Tech is now notifying parents when students under 21 are disciplined for alcohol- and drug-related violations. The university adopted the policy last month in response to many parental requests. It is exercising a provision of the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act that allows the notifications, even on first offenses. Under the previous policy, parents were notified of violations only after a second offense. (AP)

D.C. Council OKs City Vote for AG

Measure gives power to residents, instead of mayor, to fill position

Washington

The D.C. Council agreed to legislation Tuesday that would ask District residents to elect the city's chief attorney, instead of allowing the mayor to fill the position.

The measure, approved on a 12-1 final vote, comes amid ongoing tension between the council and the current attorney general, Peter

Nickles, an appointee and longtime friend of Mayor Adrian M. Fenty's. For the change to take effect, Congress would have to amend the city's Home Rule charter.

Council members stressed that the legislation was designed to inject independence into the office — not to target Nickles — and to bring the District in line with 43 states that have elected attorneys general. The city's lawyer would be required to serve a four-year term and have practiced law in the District for at least five of the past 10 years.

The partisan election would not take place until 2014 and would not apply to Nickles, according to council member Phil Mendelson,



Nickles D-At Large, the bill's sponsor. Even so, Nickles said he opposes the legislation because it would have "disastrous" results. The mayor, he said, would have to hire a new team of lawyers and there would be a "continuing struggle between the

Attorney General's lawyers and the mayor's lawyers," Nickles wrote in a letter Tuesday to explain his position.

The council rejected on a 10-3 vote an amendment by council member Tommy Wells, D-Ward 6, that would have instead transferred the powers of the U.S. Attorney's Office to an elected district attorney.

Voters approved a referendum proposal in 2002 that would have allowed an elected district attorney to prosecute local crimes. ANN E. MARIMOW (THE WASHINGTON POST)

Metro Stages Security Operation at Union Station



A MEMBER OF A DELEGATION of senior police officers from India observing a security drill snaps a picture of Special Response Team officers Cable Miller, left, and Jimmy Bunn Tuesday. D.C.-area and Metro police agencies participated in an anti-terrorism exercise with a show of force and inspected Metro trains during the morning rush hour at Union Station.

Woman Found Guilty in Judge Stalking Case

Washington

A D.C. Superior Court jury on Tuesday found a District woman guilty of stalking a magistrate judge.

Taylor Nuevelle, 40, was convicted of stalking Judge Janet Albert after the two broke off a year-long relationship in 2008. Nuevelle was convicted of burglary and unlawful entry. She faces 15 years in prison.

The judge found her former companion unconscious in her attic, with some food and an ice bucket fashioned into a makeshift toilet, authorities said before the trial.

Investigators said Nuevelle had climbed into the attic through a door in Albert's bedroom closet and had been there for almost 24 hours, listening to Albert's telephone pleas to friends for help. KEITH L. ALEXANDER (THE WASHINGTON POST)

The Lotteries

Tuesday, Feb. 2

Maryland

Mid-day Pick 3	6-9-0
Evening Pick 3 (Mon.)	3-6-1
Mid-day Pick 4	2-2-2-7
Evening Pick 4 (Mon.)	4-0-6-3
Match 5 (Mon.)	5-8-19-31-37 (38)

District

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	7-2-0
Evening Lucky Numbers (Mon.)	1-3-0
Mid-day DC 4	1-9-6-8
Evening DC 4 (Mon.)	3-2-7-5
Mid-day D.C. Five	2-2-4-0-2
Evening D.C. Five (Mon.)	9-2-1-8-5
Daily 6 (Mon.)	4-24-27-28-31-33 (8)

Virginia

Mid-day Pick 3	4-9-5	Evening Pick 4 (Mon.)	2-5-5-5
Evening Pick 3 (Mon.)	8-6-5	Mid-day Cash 5 (Tues.)	2-6-21-27-34
Mid-day Pick 4	2-3-9-9	Evening Cash 5 (Mon.)	1-12-14-18-27

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a claims location. Drawings that occur after Express' deadline will be published two days later.

“I cannot escape being troubled by the fact that we have in place a policy which forces young men and women to lie about who they are in order to defend their fellow citizens.”

— ADM. MIKE MULLEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, STRESSING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING ONLY FOR HIMSELF IN CRITICIZING THE “DON’T ASK, DON’T TELL” POLICY.

TIM SLOAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



‘Don’t Ask’ Battle Brews

Military leaders tell leery lawmakers it’s time to repeal U.S. policy on gay troops

Washington

It’s time to repeal the military’s “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy and allow gay troops to serve openly for the first time in history, the nation’s top defense officials declared Tuesday, with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff proclaiming that service members should not be forced to “lie about who they are.”

However, both Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen asked for a year to study the impact before Congress would lift the controversial policy.

Reversing the Pentagon’s 17-year-old policy toward gays “comes down to integrity” for the military as an institution and for the service members themselves, Mullen told a Senate hearing. Unpersuaded, several Republican senators said they would

oppose any congressional effort to repeal the policy.

The Pentagon announced an 11-month review of how the ban could be lifted, as President Obama has said he will work to do. But there is no deadline for ending the policy that dates to President Bill Clinton’s tenure. In the meantime, Gates announced plans to loosen enforcement rules for the policy.

Homosexuality has never been openly tolerated in the American military, and the 1993 policy was intended to be a compromise that let gay men and women serve as long as they stayed silent about their sexuality. Clinton had wanted to repeal the ban, but the military and many in Congress argued that doing so would disrupt order.

Repealing the ban would take an act of Congress, something that does not appear close to happening.

By the Numbers

The “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy has been subject to criticism because of the number of troops affected by it and the cost to implement it.

66,000

The number of homosexuals serving in the United States military, according to a Williams Institute study.

DISCHARGES IN 2009

428

The number of people discharged from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines last year for violating the “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy, according to the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. The total is about one-third lower than in 2008.

THE OVERALL COST

\$290M

The minimum the military has had to pay for discharges and replacing troops due to the policy since it began. It costs the military \$23,000 to \$43,000 to replace a service member who has been discharged, according to the Williams Institute.

Gates drew unusually pointed criticism from Republicans on the Senate Armed Services Committee for saying the review would exam-

ine how, not whether, to repeal the ban. Arizona Sen. John McCain, the top Republican on the panel, icily told Gates he was disappointed in

his position and suggested the Pentagon was usurping Congress’ job. “Has this policy been ideal? No, it has not,” McCain said. “But it has been effective.”

Tuesday’s session gave Obama high-level cover on a divisive social issue complicated by the strains on an all-volunteer military force fighting two wars.

Gates, who says he is a Republican, is the only member of former President George W. Bush’s Cabinet who Obama asked to stay on. He has gained a reputation for both candor and caution. Mullen’s words were a forceful endorsement from a careful man, and his very appearance, starched uniform and four stars on view, made a statement.

“For me, it comes down to integrity — theirs as individuals and ours as an institution,” Mullen said. **ANNE FLAHERTY (AP)**

Freeneey in Pain, Hopes to Play

Colts defensive end battles ankle injury ahead of Super Bowl

Pro Football

Indianapolis Colts All-Pro defensive end Dwight Freeneey still hopes to play in the Super Bowl despite a torn ligament in his right ankle. “Hopefully, towards the end of the week it starts to get better,”

Freeneey said at Tuesday’s media day. “The decision will come later on in the week. It’s kind of early now.” Freeneey said it’s “very discouraging” not to be able to practice for Sunday’s NFL title game against the New Orleans Saints. “The competitor in me says they’ll never stop me from being on the field,” he said. “There’s some pain there definitely with throwing everything at it, all types of techniques to find the best thing to get



Dwight Freeneey tackles questions about his injured ankle on Tuesday in Miami.

this thing as good as possible. You name it, I’ve probably done it.” Freeneey injured his ankle in the AFC championship game nine days ago. He said chances of his practicing the rest of the week are not good. He’s the only starter on either team who might miss the game because of injury. Freeneey led the Colts with 13 sacks and is considered the leader of a defense that has performed well in the playoffs. (AP)

Safety Bethea Makes It Big With the Colts

Pro Football

Like any mother, Verina Bethea had instincts about her son, Antoine. While the other children in the youth football leagues around Newport News, Va., might only have seen the smallest boy, the one with the slender frame swallowed by shoulder pads, and wondered how he could possibly harm

“He was smaller than the average child ... but he delivered a hit.”
— VERINA BETHEA, ON HER SON, ANTOINE, WHO’S NOW WITH THE COLTS.

them, she understood the passion that roiled behind his passive eyes and the determination he put into those hours of lifting weights. If someone thought he couldn’t do something, he would make them realize that was a mistake. “When you doubt a person, it gives them an extra power,” she says. There was a part of her that ached for her son in those days. A few times she just wanted to burst into the mid-



Antoine Bethea has made 350 tackles and reached one Pro Bowl during his four-year career with the Indianapolis Colts.

dle of the games and grab the coach or the other players and scream: “My baby can!” But this she knew would not help him, so she said nothing. It was best to let Antoine Bethea show them himself. By now they should all have learned. Antoine Bethea is the starting free safety for the Indianapolis Colts. On Sunday, he will play in his second Super Bowl in

three years. He’s still proving himself again and again, ceaselessly launching his 5-foot-11, 203-pound body into ballcarriers who never seemed to understand the power with which he could slam into them until it’s too late. Those who know the former Howard University standout describe him with words such as “quiet,” “polite” and “respectful.”

The scorn he has for disbelievers is reserved for a private time, when he is alone on the field, the crowd roaring in his helmet and a quarterback throwing a pass his way. “I try to outdo people,” said Bethea, who made the Pro Bowl last year, and has 350 tackles and 11 interceptions in his career. “Let the haters hate and the doubters doubt.” LES CARPENTER (THE WASHINGTON POST)

In Brief



Mark Sanchez led the Jets to the AFC Championship in his rookie season.

PRO FOOTBALL
Jets QB Sanchez Set For Surgery on Left Knee
New York Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez will have surgery on his left knee and is expected to be ready in time for training camp. The team said Tuesday that the operation, which will repair the patella ligament that holds the kneecap in place, will be performed in the next few weeks. (AP)

PRO FOOTBALL
Bengals Rookie LB Pleads Guilty to DUI
Cincinnati Bengals linebacker Rey Maa-luga pleaded guilty to drunken driving Tuesday and received a suspended sentence. The rookie linebacker was arrested four days ago, after police said he hit a parking meter and two parked cars in northern Kentucky. (AP)

SOCCER
Mexican Player Shot
A teammate of the Paraguayan soccer star who was shot last week in a Mexico City bar has been shot during a robbery attempt. Officials for the Mexican team Club America said Tuesday that Juan Carlos Silva was in good condition after being wounded in the buttocks. The violence comes in the wake of the Jan. 25 shooting of Salvador Cabanas, who is recovering after being shot in the head. (AP)



FULL CIRCLE

The Washington Redskins on Tuesday made another coaching hire official: former NFL wide receiver Keenan McCardell will begin his coaching career in Washington, leading the team’s wide receivers. The Redskins interviewed McCardell, 40, last week at the Senior Bowl, and after ironing out the final details, they announced his addition to the staff. McCardell was drafted by the Redskins in 1991 and finished his career in D.C. in 2007. (TWP)

Sports



MITCHELL LAYTON/GETTY IMAGES

Junior guard Chris Wright goes up for a basket in Georgetown's 89-77 victory against Duke at Verizon Center last Saturday.

The Big East Stands Tall

Georgetown's road doesn't get any easier after defeating Duke

Hoyas Hoops

Last week, before his Hoyas dismantled ACC power Duke 89-77 in front of a raucous, sold-out crowd at Verizon Center Saturday, coach John Thompson III was asked whether he thought it was "piling on" to play the Blue Devils in the middle of the grind that is Big East play.

"You sound like my dad," said Thompson, referring to ex-Hoyas coach John Thompson Jr. "He tells me, 'You're crazy for playing this series.'"

His comment underscores the

A Quick Rebound

With the likes of Hasheem Thabeet (Connecticut), Jonny Flynn (Syracuse) and Terrence Williams (Louisville) among eight Big East players drafted in last June's NBA draft, the common perception was the talent level within the league had been depleted. But the conference has four top-10 teams, and only two of its 16 squads have sub-.500 records. The Big East sports the highest conference RPI in the country and a Final Four participant from a year ago (Connecticut) is in 13th place. (ME)

..... perennial strength of the Big East, which has seen new stars emerge to offset several of the conference's best players' jumping to the NBA after last

season. "To the naked eye, you would see the Big East wasn't the same, but teams have really revamped," said Hoyas guard Chris Wright.

It's a reality Georgetown must confront after the emotional high of playing in front of President Obama, as it hosts South Florida Wednesday in the first of nine-straight league games to end the year.

Saturday's contest with Duke was the last of a four-year agreement, a series Thompson called "great" even though it wasn't the same as facing a traditional Big East rival like Syracuse or Villanova. Try telling his dad that, though.

"He hears it; he just doesn't agree with it," said Thompson. "In Big East play ... you're gonna get beat up, but I think this group will handle it well." MARK GIANNOTTO

Hearsay

"Even though it's me passing him in the record books, it's still us, and it's still Magic and all the other great players."

— KOBE BRYANT, ACTING HUMBLE AFTER PASSING JERRY WEST AS THE LAKERS' ALL-TIME LEADING SCORER.

216

The number of athletes named to the U.S. Olympic squad for the Vancouver Games on Tuesday. Nordic combined skier Todd Lodwick and luge athlete Mark Grimmette were chosen for their fifth-straight team. (AP)

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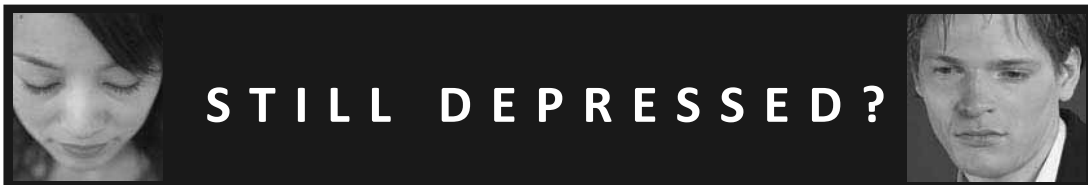
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Sports

Birdsong Adjusts To His New Role

Patriots senior learns to make the most of his time off the bench

George Mason Hoops

When senior Louis Birdsong entered the George Mason men's basketball team's game Saturday against James Madison with less than six minutes left in the first half, the Patriots were stuck in neutral and had frittered away an eight-point lead.

But on the ensuing possession, Birdsong snapped a 9-0 James Madison run with a pretty baseline drive and reverse layup, a clutch basket from a player who has appeared in 117 contests since the 2006-07 season.

17
The number of consecutive home games that George Mason has won, tying the CAA's record.

For the second consecutive game, Birdsong — the team's lone senior — provided a much-needed spark for George Mason off the bench, finishing with nine points, four rebounds and two blocks during a 70-68 win at Patriot Center.

"He was huge," said Patriots coach Jim Larranaga, whose team faces Georgia State Wednesday.

For the first three years of his career, Birdsong started 67 percent of the time. However, with the emergence of sophomore forward Ryan



Louis Birdsong dunks in George Mason's first game versus Georgia State this year.

Pearson (13.1 points per game), Birdsong has averaged 2.4 points and 12.2 minutes per game.

Yet with Pearson unable to play against Delaware on Jan. 27 because of a tight hamstring, Birdsong started for the first time since a 66-49 loss at George Washington on Dec. 2 and finished with 11 points, seven rebounds, three assists and three blocks — all season highs.

Birdsong has been a stabilizing force for George Mason (15-7, 10-1), which started three sophomores against James Madison and had three freshmen play more than 15 minutes each.

"It's tough for anyone who has started most of their career to come off the bench, but you have to come to terms with it," said Birdsong. "It's a role that I've learned to accept, especially being the senior and knowing what it takes to win in this league." JASON MACKEY

TV Lineup

LOCAL COLLEGE HOOPS (7 P.M., MASN AND ESPNU) No. 7 Georgetown tries to avoid a letdown against South Florida, and Virginia takes on N.C. State.

WIZARDS (7:30 P.M., CSN) The Wizards try for a second win over the Knicks in one week.

NBA (8 P.M., 10:30 P.M.; ESPN) The Boston Celtics tip off against the Miami Heat, and the Denver Nuggets host the Phoenix Suns.

MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS (7 P.M., 9 P.M., 11 P.M., ESPN2) Marquette hosts DePaul, No. 1 Kansas visits Colorado, and Utah State battles Idaho.

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1 Brs \$ 870 2 Brs \$1075**OPEN HOUSE THIS WEEKEND**

- Newly remodeled apts
- Dishwasher
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call for more info

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RENTALS

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Cheverly Crossing
3839 64th Ave. Landover, MD**1, 2, & 3 bed renovated apt. homes**
starting at \$850!****REDUCED SEC. DEPOSITS!!!!****No App Fees, just bring 2 paystubs**
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schedule your appt!

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NE-1247 F Street Spacious 1BR open floor plan new ceiling fans, several closets, hard, nr Metro \$875. Delwin Realty 301-608-3703 X 105**NE/228 Randolph Place** Spacious 3BR, w/w, newly bath, unfn bsmt, front/bck porch, Nr Metro, \$1650. Delwin Realty 301-608-3703 X 105**NE-2823 4th St.** Spacious 1BR + den, newly renov, new carpet, separate dining, rm, nr Metro, \$850. Delwin Realty 301-608-3703 X 105

NE

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10AM-4PM
No Application Fee**1BR Special Starting@ \$745**
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Apartments

- Recently Renovated!!!
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Silver Spring, MD 20910
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- Blocks from Silver Spring Metro
- Metrobus and RideOn bus at doorstep

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Silver Spring, MD 20910
ParksideEastApartments.com

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1-BR Starting @ \$755

FREE BASIC CABLE

- Largest floor plans in the area
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Min/max income requirement set.
\$150 off first month rent with Feb 28 move in.
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Mon-Fri 9-5 for more details & to set up appt,
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Saturday February 6th 9am-4pm
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Totally Renovated Property

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\$350 off first month's rent
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2BRs Starting at \$875

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Bring Your \$100 Holding Fee to Reserve Your
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Silver Spring

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Silver Spring

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App fee \$10

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All Utilities Included
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Give and Take In
Jennifer Aniston will host a film screening to raise funds for Haiti **35**

Off the Cuffs



BRavo

Heaven or Kell

Hollywood insists on portraying the fashion industry as Disneyland with designer clothes, where any aspiring designer can nab a meeting with a top Bergdorf buyer ("The City") and it rains free Chanel on fledgling assistants ("The Devil Wears Prada").

Which is what helps make Bravo's



By Betsy Lowther

"Kell on Earth" (Mon., 10 p.m.), the new reality show following grizzled fashion publicist Kelly Cutrone, above, so refreshing. It depicts the intense, no-time-for-makeup/food/showering, fashionista-eat-fashionista side of the industry. On "Kell," people don't roll out of bed with flawless makeup, perfect curls and coffee dates lined up with top execs and editors. An oft-haggard Cutrone gets her eyebrows waxed in her office while juggling phone calls; exhausted underlings are upbraided with expletives; at any given moment, at least three staffers seem on the verge of a breakdown. It ought to be required viewing for any kid who lists "stylist" or "designer" as a career goal.

In real life, fashion is a high stakes, high-stress world where a thick skin is infinitely more important than a cute wardrobe. It's also way more fascinating than the typical contrived fakery. Hollywood, take note.



SUMMIT ENTERTAINMENT AND 20TH CENTURY FOX

Director Kathryn Bigelow's "The Hurt Locker," left, is nominated for nine Academy Awards, as is "Avatar," from Bigelow's ex-husband, director James Cameron.

The Battle of the Exes

Former spouses enter a tense Oscar race as 'Avatar' and 'Hurt Locker' lead the pack

Oscars

"The Hurt Locker," the Iraq war drama directed by Kathryn Bigelow, and "Avatar," the sci-fi spectacle directed by Bigelow's ex-husband, James Cameron, led the Academy Award nominations Tuesday morning with nine nods apiece.

Both films were named in the Best Picture category, which expanded to include 10 contenders this year instead of the usual five, part of an Academy effort to make room for both prestige and populism, blockbusters and Brits. It worked. Five Best Picture nominees — including "Up," "The Blind Side"

and "District 9" — have already hurdled the \$200 million mark at the global box office.

Rounding out that crowded top category are the George Clooney vehicle "Up in the Air," Quentin Tarantino's "Inglourious Basterds," the copiously titled "Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire," coming-of-age "An Education" and the Coen brothers' black comedy "A Serious Man."

Few surprises surfaced in the acting categories: Jeff Bridges in his lead role as a whiskey-swilling country crooner in "Crazy Heart," his fifth career Oscar nod; Sandra Bullock, scoring her first nomination for "The Blind Side"; Mo'Nique, who was born outside Baltimore, receiving that supporting-actress bid for snarling her way through "Precious"; and Christoph Waltz, who plays one of the less conven-

Competition

Compare And Contrast



Though their films are competing for many of the same awards, Bigelow's "Hurt Locker" and Cameron's "Avatar" are different beasts. According to The Washington Post, the intimate, realist



"Hurt Locker" cost \$15 million to make and eked its way to a small profit. The loud and kaleidoscopic "Avatar" cost north of \$280 million. It has raked in over \$2 billion at the box office so far, making it the highest-grossing film of all time." (EXPRESS)

tional Nazis ever captured on film in "Inglourious Basterds."

Joining Bullock in the best actress category are Meryl Streep as Julia Child in "Julie & Julia," Carey Mulligan as a wannabe sophisticate in "An Education," Helen Mirren as the long-suffering wife of Leo Tolstoy in "The Last Station" and Gabourey Sidibe as the abused-but-unbroken title character in "Precious."

Alongside Bridges, Best Actor nominees include George Clooney as a self-sufficient frequent flyer in "Up in the Air," Colin Firth as a grief-stricken professor in "A Single Man," Jeremy Renner as the stoic leader of an explosive ordnance disposal unit in the "The Hurt Locker" and Morgan Freeman as Nelson Mandela in Clint Eastwood's "Invictus." JEN CHANEY AND DAN ZAK (THE WASHINGTON POST)

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expressnightout.com ▶▶ As Bravo's 'Shear Genius' enters its third season, we look back at six iconic women's hairstyles ▶▶ Take a tour of Brooklyn-by-way-of-England band Alberta Cross' long-awaited debut, 'Broken Side of Time' ▶▶ Get entertainment & event updates all day: Twitter.com/expressnightout

@ Comments? Give Betsy your feedback: expressnightout.com/offthecuffs

Compiled by Fiona Zublin. For more upcoming events, follow the Top Stops blog at expressnightout.com/topstops.

expressnightout.com **lookout**

top
stops

1 This Is the War Room

We love the Black Cat's drink-and-a-movie nights, and tomorrow's looks fantastic: a certain bizarre, beloved black-and-white comedy about nuclear war coupled with a cocktail called the Festiva Bomb, which is similar to an Irish Car Bomb but full of allure and mystery. Mystery No. 1: What does the drink have to do with the movie? **F.Z. Black Cat, 1811 14th St. NW; Thu., 8:30 p.m., free; 202-667-4490, Blackcatdc.com. (U St.-Cardozo)**

2 Lives Lived Undercover

In "True Lies/True Lives," the Spy Museum and the Smithsonian partner up for lectures about famous espionage agents. If you want more than the exhibits at the Spy Museum can give you, attend all five in the series, which includes sessions on Aldrich Ames and Robert Hanssen. **F.Z. International Spy Museum, 800 F St. NW; Wednesdays in February and first Wednesday in March, 10:15 a.m., \$115; 202-633-3030, Spymuseum.org. (Gallery Place)**

3 More Than Football Food

It might seem completely ridiculous to worry about Super Bowl food, but there have to be some gourmards out there who also care about football. If you're one of them, you can take this class to learn how to make upscale munchies such as spicy citrus chicken wings. Or you can use this to distract yourself while your football-loving friends watch the game. **F.Z. L'Academie de Cuisine, 5021 Wilson Lane, Bethesda; 7 p.m.-10 p.m., \$75 per person; 301-986-9490, Lacademie.com. (Bethesda)**



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On 'Shear Genius,' stylists trim, tease and chop for prestige

Premiere

BRAVO
11:00

It's been some time since Bravo lost "Project Runway," but the series remains the network's most influential show. Now in its third season, "Shear Genius" transfers the "Runway" template to the hair salon. Despite, or perhaps because of, its paint-by-number imitation, "Genius" continues to entertain.

This season introduces Camila Alves, who is introduced as an accomplished model and handbag designer, as host.

Jonathan Antin arrives to play the Michael Kors role, the experienced judge who dispenses encouragement and harsh criticism in equal doses. He seems to have mellowed since starring in Bravo's celebrity-stylist series "Blow Out." Or perhaps his brand



Kim Vo, Camila Alves and Jonathan Antin guide us on this hair-tastic journey.

of brash egotism has been surpassed in cable television's never-ending quest to discover swaggering prima donnas.

The 12 contestants hail from around the globe, from Australia to the Los Angeles suburb of Simi Valley, home to Brig, a 33-year-old teenager overeager to outshine her more cosmopolitan competition. She roller-skates around the communal living quarters

wearing a gold bikini, annoying everyone.

The magic of "Runway" and, to some extent "Shear," is the ability to interest viewers who know nothing and care less about fashion or coiffure. At the end of the day, it's about talent on display. And there's more than enough to go around on this season of "Shear Genius." **KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)**

Best Bets

ABC
9:00

Modern Family A visit from an old friend (guest star Minnie Driver, right) throws Claire for a loop. She's changed a lot, leaving Claire feeling inadequate. Meanwhile, Jay has an awkward moment when he plays racquetball with Cameron.



CBS
9:00

Criminal Minds The trouble with telling a lot of lies is that you have to keep track of them all. The con artist being pursued by the BAU in this new episode has found a novel solution to that: He eliminates his victims once he's done with them.

BRAVO
9:00

Launch My Line In the conclusion of the two-part season finale, the designers get a surprise visit from a Grammy Award-winning entertainer as they prepare their collections.

TNT
10:00



Leverage Preying on the grieving — for shame. In this new episode, Nate and the team go after a con artist (guest star Luke Perry, left) who's posing as a medium and targeting people who have lost loved ones. By the time he's through with them, they've also lost their life savings.

(TRIBUNE MEDIA)

Ads



Capitalism Wins

Garrulous babies, talking shirt stains, dancing sheep, aggressive ostriches and amorous chimps are among the characters featured in "Super Bowl's Greatest Commercials 2010" (8 p.m., CBS) as selected via online voting by fans. Viewers also will vote on the ultimate champion commercial spot as this one-hour special is airing. Lara Spencer and sportscaster Jim Nantz, pictured, host.

(TRIBUNE MEDIA)

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Real Deals

FOUR NIGHTS IN PRAGUE

\$639 Take a midweek getaway to the Czech capital with this deal, which includes round-trip airfare between D.C. and Prague on a major carrier; four nights at the 254-room Hotel Juno; breakfast daily; hotel taxes and fees; and fuel surcharges. Add \$156 in taxes.

WHEN: Departs Wednesdays in February and March; add \$30 for March 24; add \$40 for Thursdays in February and March; additional dates available through May for extra fees.

DETAILS: Round-trip transfers by private car cost about \$65 per person, or public transportation is available. Based on double occupancy; the single supplement is \$158. Contact Go-today.com.

FOUR NIGHTS IN BAHAMAS

\$779 The deal includes round-trip airfare between D.C. and Freeport; four nights at the Viva Wyndham Fortuna Beach; all meals, drinks, and snacks; nightly entertainment; transfers; fuel surcharges; and resort taxes. Add about \$115 in taxes.

WHEN: Feb. 15, 18, 19, 22, 25, 26; March 1, 4, 5, 8, 11, 12, 15; April 19, 22, 23, 26, 30; additional dates in May and June.

DETAILS: Based on double occupancy; single supplement is \$259. Contact Applevacations.com.

FOUR NIGHTS IN ISTANBUL

\$739 The package includes round-trip airfare between New York and Istanbul on Turkish Airlines; four nights at the 55-room Celal Sultan Hotel in Sultanahmet; breakfast daily; hotel taxes and fees; and fuel surcharges. Add about \$72 in airport taxes and fees.

WHEN: Feb. 23, March 1; add \$24 for March 14.

DETAILS: Based on double occupancy; the single supplement is \$111. Contact Centralholidays.com.

From Budget Travel Magazine

FIND MORE DEALS & TRIP-PLANNING TIPS AT BUDGETTRAVELONLINE.COM.



A weather-beaten barrel functions as a mailbox on Floreana Island in the Galapagos, left. Visitors sort through the mail and deliver notes to addresses near their homes.



Message From a Barrel

Eco-tourists double as mail carriers on a Galapagos island

Destinations

Floreana Island's postal service hasn't evolved from its origins hundreds of years ago. But unlike Darwin's finches, it doesn't need to adapt to survive.

Instead of stamps and letter carriers, the Galapagos isle relies on the kindness of travelers to move its mail. Twice a day including Sunday, boatloads of unofficial mail carriers land in Post Office Bay and walk a few sandy yards to a wooden barrel crammed with postcards and notes left by past visitors. The guests, mainly cruisers eco-touring the Ecuadorian islands, sort

through the stacks, looking for addresses near their homes. They also drop their own messages into the receptacle, adding another link

The 'post office' looks like an installation piece created by Robinson Crusoe, surrounded by organic detritus.

to the chain of mail.

The practice started in the late 1700s as a way for English whalers to communicate with those back home. The men heading out to sea would deposit their correspondence, which sailors returning home would collect and deliver.

I found cards addressed to California, Toronto, France and Germany. After flipping through countless images of sea lions and blue-footed boobies, I finally scored: East Capitol Street, Washington, D.C.

It was exciting to make a connection, but then I realized that I actually had to deliver the postcard — or else let down the writer and a centuries-old tradition. Buying a stamp and mailing it is considered cheating, our guide, Carlos, warned us. But arriving at a stranger's house with a "surprise" from someone you've never met could be a little creepy, right?

To her credit, Kathy Brennan was a model recipient. I left a note in her mailbox saying that I wished to deliver something from her friend Nancy and asking her to call me. When we talked on the phone, Bren-

nan was excited to hear that I knew Nancy, until I admitted that I had no idea who Nancy was. Even after that, she invited me over.

In her living room, I handed her the postcard of two sea lions, explaining its journey from a barrel in the sand to a D.C. rowhouse.

"I'm amazed that you picked up this card and hand-delivered it to me," said Brennan. "This is the ultimate travel story."

Later, I called the letter writer, Nancy Buermeier, to find out when she'd "mailed" the card. Amazingly, it was the day before I'd arrived in Post Office Bay.

"I mailed postcards to friends who did not get them yet," said the San Francisco resident. "Turns out you are more efficient than the Ecuadorian and U.S. postal services." **ANDREA SACHS (THE WASHINGTON POST)**

Universal Promotion Offers Preview of Harry Potter Park

Attractions

Universal Orlando is lifting the curtain a little further on its highly anticipated Harry Potter attraction with a promotion blending new media with old.

On Thursday, anyone with a webcam and a current copy of USA

Today will be able to go online and experience an "augmented reality" map of the future Wizarding World of Harry Potter park.

The technology blends computer images and real-life environments to provide a tour of the 20-acre park from all angles. For example, holding the map closer to



A sketch shows the "Harry Potter" park.

the webcam activates a view of the magical town of Hogsmeade and the Hogwarts Express.

Universal has been building anticipation for the scheduled spring opening of "Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey" for months by slowly piecing out details. (AP)

love, locally

Get close to your valentine's heart with treats made nearby

Thibaut-Janisson's Virginia Blanc de Chardonnay smells flowery, and tastes bubbly and crisp. Made in Charlottesville, this standout sparkler was poured at President Obama's first state dinner, so it's probably fancy enough for your private Valentine's Day gala. (\$30, Grape + Bean, 118 S. Royal St., Alexandria; 703-664-0214)

If your valentine is a foodie (and most likely a locavore, too), home-grown might really be where the heart is. Wooing your sweetie with gourmet delights created in the area — D.C.-roasted coffee, Virginia-born bonbons — wipes out the need for long-distance culinary romance. Besides, many of these treats taste better and seem more heartfelt than yet another box of Godiva chocolate-covered whatever. Perhaps most surprising, “Sparkling wine made in Virginia stands up to pricier French champagne,” says David Gwathmey of Grape + Bean (118 S. Royal St., Alexandria; 703-664-0214), which stocks bubbly by Charlottesville's Thibaut-Janisson. And who knows? Maybe such super-fresh goodies will help you get fresh with your latest crush. **ERIN HARTIGAN**

Former Hill staffers created Pork Barrel BBQ sauce and rub, spicy blends that'll have your pookie smacking his or her lips before locking 'em with yours. (\$10 for both, Porkbarrelbbq.com)

Exotic combos — dark chocolate with pink peppercorn; white chocolate with coconut and lime — belie the fact that Fleurir Chocolates bonbons are made in Reston, Va. Proceeds from sales of the Heart's Delight box, shown, sold via the chocolatier's site (\$18, Fleurirchocolates.com), benefit the American Heart Association. You can also score the sweets by the pound at Biagio Fine Chocolates. (1904 18th St. NW; 202-328-1506)

Qualia Coffee owner Joel Finkelstein sources beans in small batches from Bali, Ethiopia and Honduras, then roasts them here in D.C. The result: Rich, fresh brews that buzzily say, “I love you.” (\$10 a bag, Qualia Coffee, 3917 Georgia Ave. NW; 202-248-6423)

Taste Tested



The Makings for Whoopie (Pie)

Little Amish ladies supposedly invented Whoopie Pies (crumbly chocolate cookies sandwiched around fluffy frosting), which are experiencing a cupcake moment. The sugary carb bombs — think Oreos on steroids — were featured in the New York Times' food section last summer, and they're now sold at Whole Foods and Trader Joe's.

But any Pennsylvania farm chick would tell you it's more economical to make Whoopies at home. Though you could just plop blobs of cake batter on a cookie sheet, Williams-Sonoma's new Whoopie Pie Pan (\$25, Williams-sonoma.com), which looks like a flattened muffin tin, promises to produce nearly uniform-sized cakelets.

We tested the contraption with W-S' Red Velvet Whoopie Pie Mix (shown, \$14, Williams-sonoma.com). While directions on the box assumed a more loaded kitchen than many folks possess, the recipe proved easy to follow — if shocking to our daily calorie count (11 tablespoons of butter!).

After popping beet-hued batter in the oven, the muffin top-ish treats popped out easily. The included icing mix, combined with cream cheese, whirled into a filling rich enough to fuel an afternoon in the fields or cubicle. Still, we think the dessert is misnamed: Eat one Whoopie, and you won't feel like getting romantic; you'll feel like taking a nap. **JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)**

Poll Center

Today's Question

DO YOU THINK GAYS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO SERVE OPENLY IN THE MILITARY?

VOTE AT EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM OR TEXT A FOR YES OR B FOR NO TO 98999

Tuesday's Results

IS ABSTINENCE EDUCATION EFFECTIVE IN PREVENTING TEEN PREGNANCIES?



"Abstinence should be just one element in a comprehensive approach to sex and sexuality. To deny our children a proper education is to place them at risk."

COMMENTER DIOGENES

"Only if combined with other education/information to help teenagers make good decisions. Think about Bristol Palin's experience or remember how you acted at that age. 'Just say no' is not a realistic, one-size-fits-all solution to the problem."

COMMENTER PHILIMUS

SEE HOW YOUR METRO STATION VOTED AT WWW.EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM



"It was a terrible idea to expand the Best Picture category. Most of these films wouldn't have had a prayer of getting nominated ... in years past. Pretending otherwise just cheapens the entire category."

— THEDCUNIVERSE.BLOGSPOT.COM IS NOT A FAN OF THIS YEAR'S ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS.

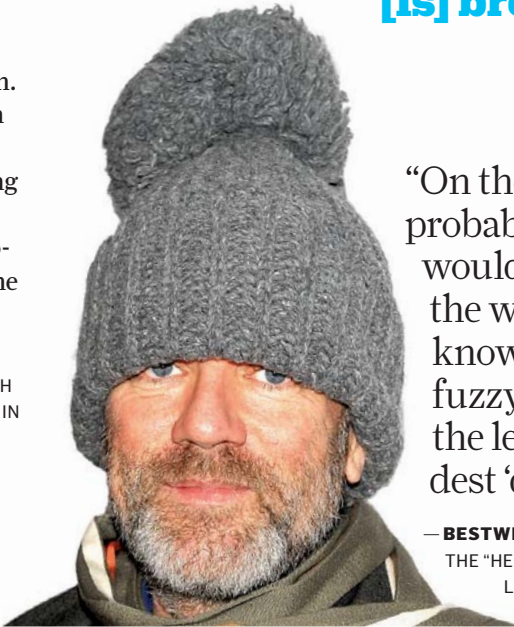


"Not surprising: Rahm Emanuel [is] being offensive and [Sarah] Palin [is] breaking news on Facebook."

— FAMOUSDC.COM WAS NOT SHOCKED TO SEE THE FORMER ALASKA GOVERNOR CALL FOR THE WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF'S FIRING OVER HIS USE OF THE WORD 'RETARDED.'

"ANOTHER FEBRUARY, another Black History Month. Frankly, for the first time in my adult life, I'm a bit conflicted. Maybe it's an age thing where the older I get, like Christmas, I see Black History Month as something for the kids and for their benefit."

— RIPPDEMUP.BLOGSPOT.COM DOESN'T THINK THE HERITAGE MONTH REALLY DOES MUCH TO HELP BLACKS IN THE UNITED STATES.



"On the one hand, [Michael] Stipe was probably happy that his iconic melody would be used to raise money for one of the worst natural tragedies ever. But you know, somewhere deep down inside that fuzzy, giant skull of his, he had to have the least bit of regret for writing the saddest 'don't kill yourself' tune of all time."

— BESTWEEKEVER.TV WONDERS WHAT THE R.E.M. FRONT MAN THINKS ABOUT THE "HELPING HAITI" VERSION OF HIS SONG 'EVERYBODY HURTS' FEATURING LEONA LEWIS, MARIAH CAREY, MICHAEL BUBLE, JAMES BLUNT, JON BON JOVI, KYLIE MINOGUE AND ROBBIE WILLIAMS, AMONG OTHERS.

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puzzles lookout

Horoscope

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You're working against someone rather than with him, and this is creating unnecessary tension. Cooperation is the way to proceed.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You're feeling the need for something more exciting in your life. Someone you know well makes a surprising, attractive offer.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You ignore the pleas of another at your own peril, for what he or she really needs is something that you need, too, whether you know it or not.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You can maximize your rewards simply by doing things in a more straightforward, streamlined fashion. Economy is key.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Your expectations may be standing in your way. The more realistic you can be, the better. Avoid hoping for the impossible.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You know the difference between what can be done and what can't — and yet you're compelled to try something in the second category.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Frustrations abound, especially if you are unable to say no to anyone — no matter what the reason. You're trying to do too much.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You're seeking something in the way of adventure at this time, but you may fear the very thing you want most. It's a dilemma.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Your day may begin quickly, with a burst of creative energy. Don't burn yourself out prematurely, though.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) The shortest distance between two points is, as you know, a straight line. So, why are you taking the longest possible route?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You will want to balance feelings and thoughts throughout the day. You may find yourself in a social situation that is unfamiliar.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) A family squabble mustn't be allowed to mushroom into something that cannot be easily controlled. You can't afford to break these valuable ties.

Scrabble Grams

PAR SCORE 150-160, BEST SCORE 222

I ₁	O ₁	U ₁	Y ₄	L ₁	S ₁	P ₃

1st Letter Double

RACK 1

A ₁	E ₁	P ₃	H ₄	G ₂	M ₃	R ₁

RACK 2

A ₁	E ₁	I ₁	C ₃	C ₃	S ₁	T ₁

RACK 3

A ₁	I ₁	D ₂	D ₂	C ₃	S ₁	R ₁

Triple Word Score

RACK 4

Yesterday's Solution

A ₁	R ₁	C ₃	H ₄	I ₁	V ₄	E ₁	RACK 1 =	95
A ₁	R ₁	G ₂	U ₁	E ₁	R ₁		RACK 2 =	7
F ₄	L ₁	A ₁	T ₁	B ₃	E ₁	D ₂	RACK 3 =	64
P ₃	A ₁	T ₁	H ₄	W ₄	A ₁	Y ₄	RACK 4 =	68
PAR SCORE 150-160								TOTAL 234

FOUR RACK TOTAL

Make a 2-7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. Blank tiles used as any letter have no point value. Scrabble is a trademark of Hasbro in the U.S. and Canada.

Sudoku

DIFFICULT

7								6
	1	6		7		5	3	
		4				7		
	8		7		9		6	
			4	2	8			
	9		5		1		7	
		3				1		
	4	9		5		8	2	
5								4

Yesterday's Solution

6	5	7	2	1	4	9	3	8
1	4	2	9	8	3	5	7	6
8	9	3	6	7	5	2	1	4
3	6	4	5	2	1	8	9	7
9	2	1	7	3	8	4	6	5
7	8	5	4	6	9	1	2	3
5	3	9	1	4	6	7	8	2
4	7	8	3	9	2	6	5	1
2	1	6	8	5	7	3	4	9

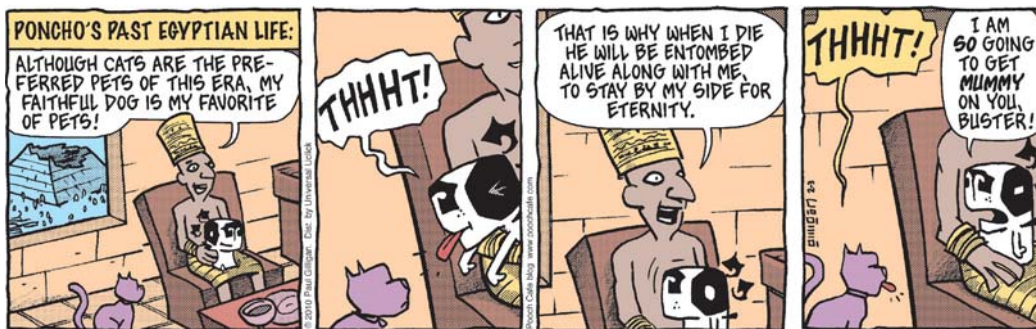
Need more Sudoku?
Find another puzzle in the Comics section of The Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.

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Comics

FIND MORE COMICS AT EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM

POOCH CAFE | PAUL GILLIGAN



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE | STEPHAN PASTIS



Forecast

42 | 28

Today: Clouds giving way to some sun today. Clear to partly cloudy tonight.

43 | 27

Tomorrow: Sunshine and patchy clouds tomorrow. Becoming cloudy tomorrow night.

Looking Ahead



FRI SAT SUN
40 | 26 30 | 21 33 | 21

Sun and Moon
Sunrise today: 7:13 a.m.
Sunset today: 5:32 p.m.
Moonrise today: 11:14 p.m.
Moonset today: 9:24 a.m.

Almanac
Normal high: 44
Record high: 72
Normal low: 28
Record low: 2

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Thursday, Feb. 4



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express night out.com

lookout puzzles

Crossword

LO AND BEHOLD!

ACROSS

- 1 Like some turkey meat
- 5 It may be shaken in anger
- 9 Brief guest appearance
- 14 Bridle attachment
- 15 Banned apple spray
- 16 “Better get ____ on”
- 17 Burrowing bony-plated animal
- 19 “Table for one” type
- 20 Sacred music genre
- 21 Brook catch
- 23 “On top of that ...”
- 26 Writer Hemingway
- 29 Layered pastry
- 33 Nutlike Chinese fruit
- 34 They may be gray or restricted
- 35 Visit for a second time
- 37 Magazine department
- 38 Ax
- 39 ____ four (small teacake)
- 40 Bittersweet coating
- 41 Jackson 5 hit of 1970
- 42 Colorful Indian attire
- 43 Ball-gown fabric
- 44 Argentine grasslands
- 46 By leaps and bounds
- 48 Play the temptress
- 49 Twelfth Jewish month
- 50 Dummkopf
- 52 Church VIP
- 57 Ship’s seepage
- 59 Sport with a goalkeeper
- 62 Shoelace part
- 63 Engagement enders?
- 64 Box-spring support
- 65 ____ two-shoes
- 66 Cause for a lawsuit
- 67 Hangover at home?

DOWN

- 1 Wet blanket
- 2 “Nautical” prefix
- 3 What swish shots miss
- 4 “Sack” lead-in

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20								21	22					
				23		24	25		26				27	28
29	30	31	32						33					
34						35		36				37		
38					39						40			
41					42						43			
44			45				46		47					
48							49							
		50				51			52		53	54	55	56
57	58					59	60	61						
62						63					64			
65						66					67			

EDITED BY TIMOTHY E. PARKER

- 5 Ribbed silk fabric
- 6 ____ at ease
- 7 Erie Canal mule of song
- 8 Carriage horse’s pace
- 9 Item counted by a dieter
- 10 Check information
- 11 Monaco resort town
- 12 The apple of Adam’s eye
- 13 “Love, Reign ____ Me” (hit by the Who)
- 18 Negotiating goals
- 22 Lease anew
- 24 Achier
- 25 Erstwhile
- 27 Piercing in tone
- 28 Like members of the nobility
- 29 Consonants like M and N

- 30 Fit for farming
- 31 Small transgression
- 32 Acorn’s destiny
- 36 Fiber used to make rugs
- 39 Toyota model
- 40 Strauss’ “Ariadne ____ Naxos”
- 42 Part of SPCA
- 43 President before Polk
- 45 Prodded gently
- 47 Least covered
- 51 Lamebrain
- 53 Section under a concha
- 54 TUP alternative
- 55 Scandinavian king
- 56 Thank-you item
- 57 Lawn mower

- attachment
- 58 “Need ____ on?”
- 60 “And now, without further ____ ...”
- 61 Craggy prominence

Yesterday’s Solution

1	T	O	R	E	6	U	G	L	I	9	S	P	I	E	L
2	A	D	E	N	7	S	O	O	N	10	T	U	T	T	I
3	M	I	D	D	15	L	E	O	F	T	H	E	R	O	A
4	E	N	S	U	E	21	S	T	O	O	L	S			
5	O	K	I	E	22	R	A	T	26	T	R	A	U	M	A
6	D	E	N	I	C	O	N	32	O	S	36	A	I	D	A
7	E	N	D	O	F	T	H	E	C	E	N	T	U	R	Y
8	S	N	U	B	S	41	R	U	I	N	45	E	E	R	
9	S	E	C	S	A	P	T	E	R	51	O	L	D	S	
10	A	L	T	E	R	57	E	A	T						
11	S	U	R	E	S	64	R	I	S	E	S				
12	F	I	R	S	T	O	F	T	H	E	M	O	N	T	H
13	C	R	U	E	T	69	E	Y	E	D	73	S	A	N	E
14	C	A	N	D	Y	78	R	E	N	O	82	E	G	A	D

Today in History

- 1690** The first paper money in America is issued by the colony of Massachusetts.
- 1959** A plane crash near Clear Lake, Iowa, kills rock 'n' roll stars Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and J.P. “The Big Bopper” Richardson.
- 1994** President Bill Clinton lifts a 19-year trade embargo against Vietnam.



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PETER KRAMER/AP

SLOW NEWS DAY

Forget Your Ambien? Just Read This Item!

Elton John and partner David Furnish have joined the producing team of "Next Fall," a Broadway-bound play. "After fulfilling experiences bringing new musicals to the stage, it was seeing this inspiring and timely new work that attracted us to take on our first play," the pair said Monday. "Next Fall" concerns the contentious relationship between two gay men, and questions of faith and religion. (AP)

OVEREXPOSURE

'Empire State of Mind' Is Sick of Itself by Now

Alicia Keys and Shakira will perform during halftime of the NBA All-Star game on Feb. 14 in Arlington, Texas. Keys will sing her hits "One" and "Empire State of Mind," plus "Try Sleeping With a Broken Heart." Shakira's offerings will include "She Wolf" and "Give It Up to Me." Usher will perform his single "More" during the player introductions. (AP)



CARLOS ALVAREZ/GETTY IMAGES

"Empire State of Mind" should be sent to the hills, where it can run free at last.

Denials

**Lies, Damn Lies And Radaronline**

Nude photos and a video of "Jersey Shore" star Snooki are on the market, according to Radaronline. The images "leave nothing to the imagination," the Web site said, "as she is wearing only a smile." Snooki denied that the photos and video exist, writing on her Twitter feed, "There are no nude pictures nor will there ever be. the tabloids just love snook gossip :)." (EXPRESS)



JEFF KRAVITZ/MTV HOPE FOR HAITI NOW VIA GETTY IMAGES

"Hello? No, thanks, I would not like delivery of the Sunday Washington Post."

SELFLESS

'It Doesn't Star Me!'

Jennifer Aniston is arranging a screening of "The Last Station" (for which Christopher Plummer and Helen Mirren both earned Oscar nominations) to benefit AmeriCares' efforts in Haiti. Tickets for the showing, which includes a cocktail party with director Michael Hoffman, range from \$100 to \$50,000, according to E! Online. Aniston recently donated \$500,000 to AmeriCares from her own resources. (EXPRESS)



LOGIC

You Can Drive Cars ... So You MUST Be Able to Act

Danica Patrick will guest-star on "CSI: NY" as the top competitor of a racing star who dies under suspicious circumstances. Patrick is scheduled to appear on the episode airing Feb. 10 on CBS. Antonio Sabato Jr. plays the racing great who dies in a car explosion two days before a race as the result of car tampering. (AP)

"If Tiger Woods was single, and he texted a girl and said 'I wanna wear your ass like a hat,' why would that ever hit the news?"



— **JOHN MAYER**, WHO ASSERTS THAT "TIGER WOODS' PROBLEMS COME FROM HIM BEING MARRIED." IF HE WEREN'T, THE MEDIA WOULD HAVE NO INTEREST IN HIS TEXTS.



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